

## UNIFORM AGREEMENT BRINGS DISCORD TO UNION CARPENTER RANKS

Court action is threatened by some union carpenters who say their leaders signed the Simon O'Donnell uniform agreement against the wish of the men.

Peace concluded July 10 between Carpenters' District Council and the Carpenter Contractors' ass'n embodied the signing of the O'Donnell agreement.

Of this, Sam Gompers, president of the A. F. of L., said: "This is the worst I have ever seen proposed by well organized labor men. I can imagine men who have been defeated after a long fight accepting it—not otherwise."

When the carpenters' strike was called last April the impression was given that a good agreement was deemed as important as a wage advance. The carpenters put forward an agreement of their own, radically different from the O'Donnell agreement.

In June the secretary of district council announced that the only contractors who had not signed the individual agreement were about one-third of the total number, all of whom were members of the Carpenters Contractors' ass'n. Leaders gave out statements saying the contractors' ass'n was whipped.

Then came the material dealers' threat to boycott contractors who signed the individual agreements. The boycott appeared a frost.

"About that time," said M. Goodell, 1357 Chicago av., member of Local 1693, "International President Kirby was chosen to represent the carpenters on an arbitration board. The board was ready for business when Kirby discovered he had power to arbitrate wages only and not the agreement."

"A referendum vote was taken on whether Kirby should be given the liberty of arbitrating the agreement. The vote was decisively 'no.'"

"The carpenters would not give Kirby power to arbitrate the agreement, because they did not want to compromise the individual agreement which had already been accepted by two-thirds of the contractors."

"Right after that President Joe Metz of district council announced that a strike settlement plan had been agreed upon. He asked each local to send one representative to a central meeting to be held two days later. 'If you can't elect a representative in time, I'll name one for you,' he said. I think he named them all."

"At that central meeting, July 10, the Simon O'Donnell agreement was accepted. They didn't tell us for weeks, however, that we were returning to work under that obnoxious agreement."

"The O'Donnell agreement provides that differences must be settled by a joint arbitration board. It says all who lay down tools in protest against unjust treatment or unfair conditions without getting permission from the joint arbitration board must pay a fine of from \$10 to \$200 each. By it contractors can replace carpenters with helpers and inside men who get a lower wage. It holds the power to destroy unionism."

"The O'Donnell agreement makes the Carpenter Contractors' ass'n a powerful trust," said H. R. Harn, 56 W. Schiller st., union member. "By it carpenters are not permitted to work for a contractor who is not registered with a joint board of arbitration, a thing the contractors ass'n has long been striving for."

"Article 7 of this agreement forbids contractors to sublet work to carpenters. In the past a carpenter could take a sub-contract, hire one or a few men to help him and do much of the work himself. He can't do that now. If he wants to take any of the contract work he must be a